

## THE SPENDERS

### A TALE OF THE THIRD GENERATION

By HARRY LEON WILSON

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He made his way to the dining room, where supper was under way.

"Mr. Bines has seen a ghost," said the sharp-eyed Mrs. Dremler.

"Poor chap's only starved to death," said Mrs. Gwilt-Athelstan. "Eat something, Mr. Bines; this supper is go-as-you-please. Nobody's to wait for anybody."

Strung loosely about the big table a dozen people were eating hot scones and bannocks with clotted cream and marmalade, and drinking mulled cider.

"And there's cold fowl and baked beans and doughnuts and all, for those who can't eat with a Scotch accent," said the host cheerfully.

Percival dropped into one of the chairs.

"I'm Scotch enough to want a Scotch high-ball."

"And you're getting it so high it's top-heavy," cautioned Mrs. Dremler.

Above the chatter of the table could be heard the voices of men and the musical laughter of women from the other rooms.

"I simply can't get 'em together," said the hostess.

"It's nice to have 'em all over the place," said her husband, "fair women and brave men, you know."

"The men have to be brave," she answered shortly, with a glance at little Mrs. Akemitt, who had permitted Percival to seat her at his side, and was now pleading with him to agree that simple ways of life are requisite to the needed measure of spirituality.

Then came strains of music from the rich-toned organ.

"Oh, that dear Ned Ristine is playing," cried one; and several of the group sauntered toward the music room.

The music flooded the hall and the room, so that the talk died low.

"He's improvising," exclaimed Mrs. Akemitt. "How splendid! He seems to be breathing a psalm of triumph, some high, exalted spiritual triumph, as if his soul had risen above us—how precious!"

When the deep swell had subsided to silvery ripples and the last cadence had faded, she looked at Percival with moistened parted lips and eyes half-shielded, as if her full gaze would betray too much of her quivering soul.

Then Percival heard the turquoise brunette say: "What a pity his wife is such an unsympathetic creature!"

"But Mr. Ristine is unmarried, isn't he?" he asked, quickly.

There was a little laugh from Mrs. Dremler.

"Not yet—not that I've heard of."

"I beg pardon!"

"There have been rumors lots of times that he was going to be unmarried, but they always seem to adjust their little difficulties. He and his wife are staying over at the Blyones."

"Oh, I see," answered Percival, "you are a jester, Mrs. Dremler."

"Ristine," observed the theosophic Wilberforce, in the manner of a hired

servant, "Bines behaved according to either formula, as the reader may prefer. He early ascertained his limitations with respect to New York and its people."

"Say, old man," he asked Herbert Delancey Livingston one night, across the table at their college club, "are all the people in New York society impeccable?"

Livingston had been with him at Harvard, and Livingston's family was so notoriously not impeccable that the question was devoid of any personal element. Livingston, moreover, had dined just unwisely enough to be truthful.

"Well, to be candid with you, Bines," the young man had replied, in a burst of alcoholic confidence, "about all that you are likely to meet are broke—else you wouldn't meet 'em, you know," he explained, cheerfully. "You know, old chap, a few of our western people have got into the right set here; there's the Nesbitts, for instance. On my word the good wife and mother hasn't the kinks out of her fingers yet, nor the callouses from her hands, by Jove! She worked so hard cooking and washing woolen shirts for miners before Nesbitt made his strike. As for him—well, caviare, I'm afraid, will always be caviare to Jimmy Nesbitt. And now the son's married a girl that had everything but money—my boy, Nellie Wemple has fairly got that family of Nesbitts awestricken since she married into it. Just by the way she can spend money—but what was I saying, old chap? Oh, yes, about getting in—it takes time, you know; on my word, I think they were as much as eight years and had to start in abroad, at that. At first, you know, you can only expect to meet a crowd that can't afford to be exclusive any longer."

From which friendly counsel, and from certain confirming observations of his own, Percival had concluded that his lot in New York was to spend money. This he began to do with large western carelessness that speedily earned him fame of a sort. Along upper Broadway his advent was a golden joy. Tradesmen learned to love him; florists, jewelers and tailors hailed his coming with honest fervor; waiters told moving tales of his tips; cabmen fought for the privilege of transporting him; and the hangers-on of rich young men picked pieces of lint assiduously and solicitously from his coat.

One of his favorite resorts was the sumptuous gambling house in Forty-fourth street. The man who slides back the panel of the stout oaken door early learned to welcome him through the slit, barred by its grill of wrought iron. The attendant who took his coat and hat, the waiter who took his order for food and the croupier who took his money, were all gladdened by his coming; for his gratuities were as large when he lost as when he won. Even the reserved proprietor, accustomed as he was to a wealthy and careless client,

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## Nature's Great Invention



On de banks ob de Amazon, far away, far away, Whar Dr. Green gits August Flowers to dis day; Ah, picked dese flowers August in de Brazil, An' aldo I see a Yankee, ah, long to be dar still.

August Flower is the only medicine (free from alcoholic stimulants) that has been successful in keeping the entire thirty-two feet of digestive apparatus in a normal condition, and assisting nature's processes of digestion, separation and absorption—for building and re-building—by preventing all irregular or unnatural causes which interrupt healthy and perfect natural processes and result in intestinal indigestion, catarrhal affections (causing appendicitis—stoppage of the gall duct), fermentation of unhealthy foods, nervous dyspepsia, headache, constipation and other complaints, such as colic, biliousness, jaundice, etc.

August Flower is nature's intended regulator. Two sizes, 25c, 75c. All druggists.

Sold by—  
Alvey & List and G. C. C. Kolb.

tele, treated Percival with marked consideration after a night when the young man persuaded him to withdraw the limit at roulette, and spent a large sum in testing a system for breaking the wheel, given to him by a friend lately returned from Monte Carlo.

"I think, really, the fellow who gave me that system is an ass," he said, lighting a cigarette when the play was done. "Now I'm going down and demolish eight dollars' worth of food and drink—you won't be all to the good on that, you know."

His host decided that a young man who was hungry after losing \$100,000 in five hours' play, was a person to be not lightly considered.

And, though he loved the rhythmic whirr and the ensuing rattle of the little red wheel at the roulette wheel, he did not disdain the quieter fare, playing that dignified game exclusively with the chocolate-colored chips, which cost \$1,000 a stack. Sometimes he won; but not often enough to disturb his host's belief that there is less of chance in his business than in any other known to the captains of industry.

There were, too, sociable games of poker, played with Garner, of the lead trust; Burman, the intrepid young